Title (en)

SCAVENGING APPARATUS

Publication

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Application

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Priority

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Abstract (en)

[origin: WO7901135A1] Scavenging apparatus in which a toothed structure has its teeth moved in a prescribed closed path to engage material being scavenged. The apparatus has particular application to removing oil from slicks at the surface of the sea in which case the teeth at least have oleophilic surfaces. In one form a plurality of spaced toothed discs (1) are rotated partially immersed in the sea and oil accreted to the toothed discs (1) is removed by a scraper device (10) for discharge in a vessel (6) which may be the vessel carrying the discs. Another structure is an endless chain of teeth, which may also be used as a lifting pump, and a preferred structure is an endless belt or conveyor (112) carrying lateral rows of teeth (120) longitudinally aligned that is immersed in the sea at one lower end and has the oil removed therefrom at the other end by a scraper arrangement (136). A set of rotatably mounted toothed discs (130), resiliently mounted with respect to the conveyor, are located adjacent the lower end to assist in breaking up viscid or weathered oil with the disc teeth longitudinally interleaved with the conveyor teeth. The set of toothed discs (130) may be substituted by a plain roller, or a plain or corrugated conveyor may be employed with the toothed discs. The toothed conveyor and disc structure may be used for other scavenging, such as clearing seaweed, in which case the teeth need not be oleophilic.

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